

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 21-28 are pending in the application, with Claims 21-24 being independent. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11 and 14-20 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 21-24 have been rewritten into independent form and Claims 25-28 are newly added. Support for the amendments and newly added claims may be found in the specification. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,726,252 (Chaikel et al.). Claims 5, 6, 8 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Chaikel et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,997,683 (Popat). Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8 and 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,652,171 (Onishi) in view of either of U.S. Patent No. 5,658,648 (Doerr et al.) or U.S. Patent No. 5,379,538 (Osborne). Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the printing process disclosed in the Background of the Invention section and Figs. 13 and 14 of Applicant's specification in view of either of Doerr et al. or Osborne. Claims 1, 2, 4, 15, 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over EP 0 355 422 A2 (McLeod) in view of JP 09-263075 A (Nakaya). Claims 5, 6, 8, 16, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over McLeod in view of EP 0 726 164

A2 (Skees) and JP 07-061170 A (Nakamura). Claims 9-11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over McLeod in view of Skees and Nakamura, and further in view of JP 10-006594 A (Hirano et al.) Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, and solely to advance prosecution, Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11 and 14-20. Accordingly Applicant submits that these rejections are moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are requested.

Claims 9-11, 14 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Onishi, in view of either of Doerr et al. or Osborne, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,153,557 (Nakanishi). Claims 9-11, 14 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over the printing process disclosed in the Background of the Invention section and Figs. 13 and 14 of Applicant's disclosure in view of either of Doerr et al. or Osborne, and further in view of Nakanishi. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's invention as recited in independent Claim 21 is directed to a printing process. The process includes a step of providing a printing paper including a center portion having a rectangular form having two pairs of opposite sides connected by four corners, and a pair of outside portions connected to the center portion at one pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion. The outside portions are edge portions of the printing paper and are removed from the center portion after an image is formed on the center portion. The other pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion are not connected to any other printing paper. The center portion has a curved edge smoothly connecting adjacent sides of the center portion at

four corners, and the outside portions are connected to the center portion via a straight line portion located between the curved edges and are removed from the center portion at the straight line portion. The outside portions are connected to only one center portion. The process also includes the steps of conveying the printing paper while holding one of the outside portions of the printing paper, conducting printing on the center portion of the printing paper, and cutting off the outside portions of the printing paper from the center portion. The outside portions are provided so that a pair of conveyer rollers hold the printing paper without releasing the printing paper until the printing is completed, and the printing can be conducted over the whole surface of the center portion even if the printing paper is conveyed with either one of the pair of outside portions as a leading edge.

Applicant's invention as recited in independent Claim 22 is directed to a printing process. The process includes a step of providing a label printing paper comprising an image receiving layer releasably laminated on a supporting layer, the label printing paper having a center portion having a rectangular form having two pairs of opposite sides connected by four corners and a pair of outside portions connected to the center portion at one pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion. The outside portions are edge portions of the printing paper and are removed from the center portion after an image is formed on the center portion. The other pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion are not connected to any other label printing paper. The center portion has a curved edge smoothly connecting adjacent sides of the center portion at four corners, and the outside portions are connected to the center portion via a straight line portion located between the curved edges and are removed from the

center portion at the straight line portion. The outside portions are connected to only one center portion. The process also includes the steps of conveying the label printing paper while holding one of the outside portions of the printing paper, conducting printing on the center portion of the label printing paper, and separating the image-receiving layer at the center portion from the supporting layer. The outside portions are provided so that a pair of conveyer rollers hold the label printing paper without releasing the label printing paper until the printing is completed, and the printing can be conducted over the whole surface of the center portion even if the label printing paper is conveyed with either one of the pair of outside portions as a leading edge.

Applicant's invention as recited in independent Claim 23 is directed to a printing system. The printing system includes a printing paper comprising a center portion having a rectangular form having two pairs of opposite sides connected by four corners, and a pair of outside portions connected to the center portion at one pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion. The outside portions are edge portions of the printing paper and are removed from the center portion after an image is formed on the center portion. The other pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion are not connected to any other printing paper. The center portion has a curved edge smoothly connecting adjacent sides of the center portion at four corners, and the outside portions are connected to the center portion via a straight line portion located between the curved edges and are removed from the center portion at the straight line portion. The outside portions are connected to only one center portion. The printing system also includes a print head for conducting printing on the center portion of the printing paper and a pair of conveyer rollers for holding the outside portions of the printing paper to convey the printing

paper. The outside portions are provided so that the pair of conveyer rollers hold the printing paper without releasing the printing paper until the printing is completed, and the printing can be conducted over the whole surface of the center portion even if the printing paper is conveyed with either one of the pair of outside portions as a leading edge.

Applicant's invention as recited in independent Claim 24 is directed to a printing system. The printing system includes a label printing paper including an image receiving layer releasably laminated on a supporting layer, the label printing paper having a center portion having a rectangular form having two pairs of opposite sides connected by four corners and a pair of outside portions connected to the center portion at one pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion. The outside portions are edge portions of the printing paper and are removed from the center portion after an image is formed on the center portion. The other pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion are not connected to any other label printing paper. The center portion has a curved edge smoothly connecting adjacent sides of the center portion at four corners, and the outside portions are connected to the center portion via a straight line portion located between the curved edges and are removed from the center portion at the straight line portion. The outside portions are connected to only one center portion. The printing system also includes a print head for conducting printing on the center portion of the label printing paper, and a pair of conveyer rollers for holding the outside portions of the label printing paper to convey the printing paper. The outside portions are provided so that the pair of conveyer rollers hold the label printing paper without releasing the label printing paper until the printing is completed, and the printing can be conducted over the whole surface of the center

portion even if the label printing paper is conveyed with either one of the pair of outside portions as a leading edge.

Accordingly, Applicant's claimed invention can achieve the remarkable benefits whereby the front and rear sections of the printing paper and the label printing paper do not have to be distinguished with respect to the conveying direction, and that the paper is very rarely positioned incorrectly by rotating the paper 90 degrees. Applicant submits that none of the cited art teaches or suggests at least this advantage and important features of Applicant's presently claimed invention.

Onishi is directed to a printing medium with easy-separating means to separate the print area from non-print areas. The easy-separating means run along the entire length of the printing medium. Depending on the particular embodiment, Onishi discloses either one detachable non-print area, or two pairs of detachable non-print areas. Onishi, however, does not teach or suggest that the outside portions are connected to the center portion via a straight line portion located between the curved edges and are removed from the center portion at the straight line portion, as recited in the independent claims.

Osborne and Doerr et al. were cited for teaching rounded corners. Applicant submits, however, that even if the Onishi was combined with Osborne or Doerr et al. in the manner proposed by the Examiner (assuming such a combination is proper), the resulting combination still would not teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention. Specifically, there is no teaching, suggestion, or motivation in any of the references to design a printing paper whereby outside portions are connected to the center portion via a straight line portion located between the

curved edges and are removed from the center portion at the straight line portion, as recited in independent Claims 21-24.

Nakanishi was cited for its teaching of print head and conveyer rollers and does not remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Onishi, Doerr et al. and Osborne.

Figures 13 and 14 of Applicant's disclosure disclose a paper with a center portion having a rectangular form and two pairs of opposite sides connected by four corners and a pair of outside portions connected to the center portion at one of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion. The outside portions are connected to the center portion via straight line portions that extend across the entire length of the sheet. Thus, as with Onishi, Applicant submits that Figure 13 does not teach or suggest that outside portions are connected to the center portion via a straight line portion located between the curved edges and are removed from the center portion at the straight line portion, as recited in independent Claims 21-24.

The Examiner cited to Doerr et al. and Osborne for teachings rounded corners. However, for the reasons noted above with respect to the proposed combination of Onishi with either of Doerr et al. or Osborne, Applicant submits that even if the paper of Figures 13 and 14 was combined with Osborne or Doerr et al. in the manner proposed by the Examiner (assuming such a combination is proper), the resulting combination still would not teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention. Specifically, there is no teaching, suggestion, or motivation in any of the references to design a printing paper whereby outside portions are connected to the center portion via a straight line portion located between the curved edges and are removed from the center portion at the straight line portion, as recited in independent Claims 21-24.

Additionally, the Examiner suggested that the printing process disclosed in the Background of the Invention section of Applicant's specification in combination with either Doerr et al. or Osborne and further in view of Nakanishi would render obvious Applicant's presently claimed invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant submits that the printing process disclosed in the Background to the Invention section of Applicant's disclosure does not teach or suggest at least the paper claimed in independent Claims 21-24. Thus, Applicant submits that the background material does not teach or suggest that outside portions are connected to the center portion via a straight line portion located between the curved edges and are removed from the center portion at the straight line portion, as recited in independent Claims 21-24. As discussed previously, neither Doerr et al. nor Osborne, which were cited for teaching rounded corners, are understood remedy this deficiency. Nakanishi, which was cited for its teaching of a print head and conveyer rollers also does not remedy the above-noted deficiency of the print process disclosed in the Background of the Invention section of Applicant's disclosure.

Therefore, Applicant submits that the proposed combination of Figure 13 with Doerr et al. or Osborne and the proposed combination of the printing process disclosed in the Background of the Invention section of Applicant's disclosure with Nakanishi and either of Doerr et al. or Osborne do not teach or suggest important features of Applicant's invention.

Additionally, in responding to Applicant's arguments presented in the Amendment filed March 23, 2005, the Examiner stated that the motivation to combine either the Background of the Invention section and Figures 13 and 14 of Applicant's disclosure or Onishi

with either of Osborne or Doerr et al. and with Nakanishi is based upon the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. The Examiner does not support this assertion with any evidence or authority. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner and traverses. As stated in MPEP § 2144.03, “[o]rdinarily, there must be some form of evidence in the record to support an assertion of common knowledge.” When the Examiner relies on the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, the Examiner “must provide specific factual findings predicated on sound technical and scientific reasoning to support” the conclusion. Id. The Examiner has not presented any factual finding supporting his conclusion that the motivation to combine the references in the manner proposed was within the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. As Applicant discussed previously, there is no motivation in any of the references to combine the references in the manner proposed so as to form a sheet where outside portions are connected to the center portion via a straight line portion located between the curved edges and are removed from the center portion at the straight line portion, as recited in independent Claims 21-24. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the references whether alone or in combination (assuming such combinations are proper) do not teach or suggest Applicant’s claimed invention, that there is no motivation to combine the references in the manner proposed by the Examiner, that the combination was not within the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, and that the proposed combinations are the result of impermissible hindsight.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 21-24. Dependent Claims 25-28 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in independent claims 21-24. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

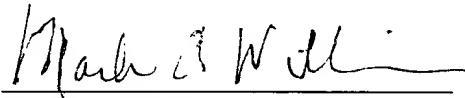
Applicant also respectfully requests that this Amendment After Final be entered.

This Amendment was not presented earlier as it was earnestly believed that the claims on file would be found allowable. Given the Examiner's familiarity with the application and the fact that this Amendment does not raise any new issues, Applicant believes that a full understanding and consideration of this Amendment would not require undue time or effort by the Examiner. Moreover, Applicant submits that this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment is believed to be appropriate and such entry is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Williamson", written over a horizontal line.

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